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**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

This settlement will do nothing more than give Microsoft inroads to one of the few markets that it does not yet monopolize. If the DOJ wants to help education with settlement that's fine and good, but do it by making Microsoft pay into a fund that allows schools to purchase the software and hardware of its choice. The education market is one of the few markets that competitors have had some success competing with Microsoft. If this settlement is not modified the education market could see the same competition squashing Microsoft that other markets have seen, and this time with the Government's help.

In general, I do not think that this settlement is harsh enough. Even if the settlement is revised as I mentioned above it is only a small slap on the hand, and will not make Microsoft change its competition squashing ways. Microsoft will only work harder to better disguise it. It is unfortunate that some originally very good software programs have been almost completely eliminated by Microsoft. Programs like Netscape and WordPerfect were once good competitors to Microsoft but due to Microsoft's ways they have become minor players in their areas with the only major player being Microsoft. This is very unfortunate, because if these programs, among others, were the competitors they once were, we would see more innovation and better products. This can also be said when it comes to operating systems.

In closing, I know that in the computer industry, history has proven that the best product usually doesn't gain market share. The program that is the most "compatible" (or marketed as such, which is usually the case) wins the market share points. I know that this is unlikely to change in the near future if ever, but it would be nice to see the better product have enough market share to be able to stay competitive and stimulate innovation and better products. For the most part, Microsoft has not allowed this to happen if they have a competing product.

Thank you.